

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	Secret Activities at Sacalaz	DATE DISTR.	23 April 1953
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1. Military activities of a more than usually secretive nature are going on in the village of Sacalaz. Sacalaz is about six kilometers from Timisoara (Jimbolia District). Though reports state it has been "completely evacuated," this does not appear to be literally true. Almost all men and women over sixty have been sent to the Baraganul district, only a few old people being allowed to remain.
2. After 9 p.m., a village curfew is strictly enforced, and only the four-man patrols sent out by the militia are allowed in the streets. In the daytime, there are sentries at all exits from the village. Military guards and militia cooperate in keeping the village absolutely isolated. Even members of the technical staff are not allowed to leave the part of the village where the troops are quartered, day or night. Labor troops are not allowed to leave the place where they are working, even to go into other parts of the village. After curfew, the village is completely dark, electricity being supplied only to the municipal offices, which are in one small building.
3. The political officers, technical personnel, and soldiers engaged in guarding the labor barracks are quartered in various private houses, evacuated for their use. There are about 250 in this group.
4. Some of the "soldiers" in the village belong to the Labor Troops (Detasamente de Munca.) About 2500 of these men are lodged in wooden barracks, which are carefully sealed off, so that their occupants have no contact with ordinary troops. There are a great many masons. A political officer is in charge of each group of soldiers engaged in construction. Anyone who says he is too ill to work is accused of sabotage and imprisoned.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. The reason for all this secrecy is not clear. The troops stationed here (number and units unknown) are hard at work training most of the time. They train in the fields, just outside the village. Tank motors are often heard at night, which suggests that night training is also going on. [redacted] the troops are engineers and "motorized infantry".

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